


Our "Mighty MEA" has reached an interesting intersection where the compass is pointing in a variety of directions. They are: 1) a need to build positive working relationships with our Lansing law makers, 2) Examine our MEA budget under a wide-eyed microscope that is fair and equitable to all MEA members and MEA staff, 3) to grow our new teacher membership and connect with them via their avenue in the use of best technology practices.

One of our ideas on jump starting our connecting with our law makers is to extend an invitation to spend a day attending their neighborhood public school. Their day would begin by riding the school bus, observing teachers & support staff working with students and of course enjoying a healthy hot lunch with our students.

The upcoming MEA Spring Representative Assembly will allow the opportunity for our delegates to elect new officers. Richard Fink and I have a combined total of 73 years of teaching experience. We invite you to join the Fink/ Carter team. Together we will keep our MEA strong as we advocate for public education. Many Thanks for all you do for your students!

Sincerely, Linda S. Carter—Candidate for MEA vice president

Nancy Strachan



Nancy Strachan, a teacher, is president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association (WWEA), a post she's held for seven years. As WWEA president, she joined her colleagues in 2008 in the first major work stoppage in a Michigan public school district outside of Detroit since 1994. Strachan has served on

the MEA Board of Directors since 2004 and has also held various other appointments at the local and state levels. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University.

I'm Nancy Strachan, proud president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association, a position I've held for seven years. I am a candidate for MEA vice president with Steve Cook.

As a long time local president, I believe the strength of our state association lies at the very essence of our locals, their ability to represent members and their ability to bargain good contracts. MEA is only as strong as its locals—if our locals don't have the tools and resources to do the job—MEA isn't getting the job done and the financial ability of MEA to do its job is in jeopardy.

We need the most experienced team at the helm of the MEA—experienced with our finances, experienced with our pension fund, experienced with our budget, experienced with issues our members confront on a daily basis: we need experienced leaders in the Executive Office.

It was a sense of commitment to members and leadership that led to my successfully taking the Wayne Westland EA out on a

strike two years ago—the first and only MEA strike since passage of PA 112—it took almost two years of careful planning before that strike even began.

Yes, I'm a tough leader, but most important I've demonstrated an ability to make things happen in tough times.

Steve Cook and Nancy Strachan are a team of experienced leaders ready to start on day one and begin to tackle the substantial challenges that face MEA. We're ready to make a difference and welcome your comments, questions, encouragement, and support.

Thank you.

Candidates for secretary-treasurer

Lance Little



Lance Little, a teacher in Owosso, is an active union member. He is treasurer of the Owosso Education Association and has served on the MEA Board of Directors since 2004, in addition to holding several other elected and appointive offices at the state and local levels. Little has also

served as a delegate to the MEA and NEA assemblies. Little earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Michigan State University.

Dear Fellow MEA Members:

My name is Lance Little and I am seeking election as your MEA secretary-treasurer.

I have served you on the MEA Board of Directors since 2004, and I have served on and chaired a number of MEA statewide committees. Through these responsibilities, I have developed an understanding of MEA's operation and finances. These experiences, as well as my role as a local leader and political advocate, have prepared me to be an active, integral part of the MEA leadership team that will move MEA into the future.

In the development of the MEA Budget, it is important that members recognize and value the services and benefits they get for their dues. There must be input from local leaders and members and the budget process must be transparent so RA delegates have confidence in the budget. MEA must continuously evaluate our organizational structure and efficiently deliver our programs and services to members.

Strong local associations make a strong MEA. Local associations are strengthened when members are trained in skills that prepare and enhance their effectiveness as local leaders and bargainers. I hope to make training more accessible to local leaders in all parts of the state, including online opportunities.

MEA finds itself in difficult times — fighting the anti-public school and anti-union rhetoric that threatens collective

Top officers of MEA take a leave of absence from their regular job to serve full-time in their official role.